

Application No. 09/635,011
Response to Office Action

Customer No. 01933

R E M A R K S

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

THE CLAIMS

Independent claims 1, 6 and 11 have been amended to clarify the feature of the present invention whereby the regional image information comprises images specific to the areas, and whereby the regional image information read out from the storage means comprises at least one of the images.

In addition, claims 3, 8 and 13 have been amended to better accord with amended independent claims 1, 6 and 11.

Still further, claim 20 has been canceled, and claim 21 has been amended to depend from claim 11.

No new matter has been added, and it is respectfully requested that the amendments to claims 1, 3, 6, 8, 11, 13 and 21 be approved and entered.

THE PRIOR ART REJECTION

Claims 1, 3-6, 8-10 and 16-19 were rejected under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by USP 6,564,070 ("Nagamine et al"); and claims 11, 13-15 and 20-22 were rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious in view of the combination of Nagamine et al and

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USP 6,600,930 ("Sakurai et al"). These rejections, however, are respectfully traversed.

According to the present invention as recited in independent claim 1, a communication device is provided which comprises mail creation means for creating an electronic mail; detecting means for detecting a current position of the communication device; storing means for storing regional image information specific to areas, wherein the regional image information comprises images specific to the areas; and transmission means for reading from the storing means the regional image information, comprising at least one of the images, corresponding to the area of the detected current position, and for attaching the regional image information to the electronic mail and transmitting the electronic mail with the regional image information attached thereto, when the communication device is set in an image attachment mode.

In addition, according to the present invention as recited in amended independent claim 6, a radio communication system is provided which comprises a communication terminal corresponding to the communication device recited in amended independent claim 1, and a cell station connected to the communication terminal via a radio channel.

Still further, according to the present invention as recited in amended independent claim 11, a radio communication system is

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provided which comprises a communication terminal and a service center. The communication terminal recited in amended independent claim 11 comprises mail creation means for creating an electronic mail; detecting means for detecting a current position of the communication terminal; and transmission means for attaching position information indicating the current position detected by the detecting means to the electronic mail and transmitting the electronic mail with the position information attached thereto to the service center.

The service center recited in claim 11, moreover, comprises storing means for storing regional information specific to positions of the terminal, wherein the regional image information comprises images specific to the positions of the terminal; reading means for reading from the storing means the regional information, comprising at least one of the images, corresponding to the position information attached to the electronic mail and attaching the regional information to the electronic mail; and means for transmitting the electronic mail with the regional information attached thereto.

The Examiner asserts on page 3 of the Office Action that Nagamine et al discloses storing regional image information specific to areas at column 6, lines 14-19 thereof. More specifically, Nagamine et al discloses capturing an image at column 6, lines 14-19 thereof, and as recognized by the Examiner,

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Nagamine et al discloses detecting position information to add to the image at column 6, lines 4-13. Thus, the Examiner asserts on page 3 of the Office Action that the regional image information of the claimed present invention is the image information described at column 6, lines 14-19 of Nagamine et al.

The Examiner also asserts on page 3 of the Office Action that Nagamine et al discloses an creating an electronic mail, attaching the regional image information to the electronic mail, and transmitting the electronic mail at column 11, lines 31 and 32. At column 11, lines 31 and 32 (more generally, at column 11, lines 19-32) thereof, Nagamine et al discloses that in a camera mode, an image may be captured and transmitted as electronic mail to a desired destination. Thus, Nagamine et al discloses at column 11, lines 31 and 32 that a photograph may be created as electronic mail. Indeed, the Examiner asserts that the photograph described at column 11, lines 31 and 32 is the electronic mail of the claimed present invention on page 3 of the Office Action.

Thus, as described above, the Examiner has identified photographic information having positional information attached thereto and a photograph transmitted as electronic mail in Nagamine et al.

However, it is respectfully submitted that Nagamine et al does not even remotely suggest that the image information

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described at column 6, lines 14-19 ("regional image information," according to the Examiner) is read out and attached to the image information described at column 11, lines 31 and 32 ("electronic mail," according to the Examiner).

And it is respectfully submitted that while the Examiner asserts that an "image attachment mode" is described at column 11, lines 29-33 of Nagamine et al, in fact column 11, lines 19-32 of Nagamine et al merely disclose a camera mode, in which an image may be captured, and may have sound information added thereto, and/or may be transmitted as electronic mail.

Indeed, it is respectfully pointed out that the cited portions of Nagamine et al do not disclose that an image is attached to anything, let alone that one image is attached to another image as asserted by the Examiner. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that Nagamine et al clearly does not disclose, teach or even remotely suggest an image attachment mode as according to the claimed present invention at column 11, lines 19-32 thereof.

It is respectfully submitted that Nagamine et al, in fact, merely disclose capturing an image, adding position information to the captured image, and transmitting the image with the position information attached thereto (if position information has been added).

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Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that even if Nagamine et al were considered to disclose regional image information and electronic mail in the manner of the claimed present invention, as asserted by the Examiner, Nagamine et al still would not disclose, teach or even remotely suggest attaching the regional image information to the electronic mail and transmitting the electronic mail with the regional image information attached thereto, as recited in amended independent claims 1, 6 and 11, wherein, as now even more clearly recited in amended independent claims 1, 6 and 11, the regional image information comprises an image.

It is respectfully submitted, moreover, that Nagamine et al does not disclose, teach or suggest storing regional image information storing means for storing regional image information specific to areas (or positions of the terminal), wherein regional image information comprises images specific to the areas, and whereby the regional image information, comprising at least one of the images, is read out from the storage means based on the area of the detected current position of the communication terminal.

That is, according to the present invention as recited in independent claims 1, 6 and 11, regional image information is stored and is read out based on a position of the communication terminal.

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By contrast, according to Nagamine et al, position information is detected, an image is captured, and the detected position information is added to the captured image. The captured image information with the position information added thereto may be transmitted. However, it is respectfully pointed out that Nagamine et al does not disclose, teach or suggest storing regional image information and reading out the stored regional image information based on a detected position, in the manner of the claimed present invention.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that Nagamine et al does not disclose, teach or suggest storing means and transmission means as recited in amended independent claims 1 and 6, and it is respectfully submitted that Nagamine et al does not disclose storing means, reading means and transmitting means as recited in amended independent claim 11.

On pages 5 and 6 of the Office Action, the Examiner contends that it would have been obvious to combine Nagamine et al with Sakurai et al to achieve the features of the present invention as recited in independent claim 11. Specifically, the Examiner contends that Nagamine et al discloses all of the features of the present invention as recited in independent claim 1, and the Examiner asserts that it would have been obvious to modify the system disclosed by Nagamine et al in view of Sakurai et al to include a PHS server (a "service center" as recited in claim 11,

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according to the Examiner), so as to provide mass storage for the radio communication device.

It is respectfully pointed out, however, that according to the present invention as recited in independent claim 11, the service center comprises, in particular, storing means for storing regional image information specific to positions of the terminal, wherein the regional image information comprises images specific to the positions of the terminal, and reading means for reading from said storing means the regional image information, comprising at least one of the images, corresponding to the position information attached to the electronic mail and attaching the regional image information to the electronic mail.

That is, according to the present invention as recited in independent claim 11, the regional image information is added to the electronic mail at the service center.

By contrast, according to the Examiner's own interpretation of Nagamine et al the "regional image information" (as identified by the Examiner) is added to electronic mail at the communication terminal.

And it is respectfully pointed out that even if the image having the position information added thereto according to Nagamine et al were stored in a separate server, as suggested by the Examiner, the Examiner has provided no reasoning that would suggest that it would be obvious to modify Nagamine et al to add

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the position information to the image information at the server,
instead of at the terminal.

It is respectfully submitted, therefore, that even if
Nagamine et al were combinable with Sakurai et al, the service
center of the present invention as recited in amended independent
claim 11 still would not be achieved or rendered obvious.


In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that
amended independent claims 1, 6 and 11, as well as claims 3-5,
8-10, 13-19, 21 and 22 respectively depending therefrom, all
clearly patentably distinguish over Nagamine et al, taken singly
or in combination with Sakurai et al, under 35 USC 102 as well as
under 35 USC 103.

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Entry of this Amendment, allowance of the claims and the
passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or
recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the
undersigned for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,


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